

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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RSC-01 SSO-00 /050 W

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P R 181219Z DEC 73

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TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0939

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC

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USINFO FOR IOR/M/IPS, IBS, INE

BEIRUT FOR VOA AND RAPA

ROME FOR VOA

MADRID -- S/S FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E O 11652: N/A

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION - DEC 18

1. MEDIA LEAD WITH TERRORIST CARNAGE AT ROME AIRPORT AND
SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS. AL HAMISHMAR SUGGESTS QADHAFI'S
HAND IS BEHIND TERRORIST ACT. DAVAR SAYS OBSERVERS BELIEVE
TERRORIST OBJECTIVE IS TO SABOTAGE GENEVA CONF.

YEDIOT AHARONOT (GUINEY) SAYS ARAB AFAAIRS EXPECTS BELIEVE

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TERRORIST ACTIVITIES WILL BECOME MORE FREQUENT WHEN CHANCES

FOR PEACE SETTLEMENT INCREASE. MEDIA ALSO DEVOTE PRIME SPACE TO: (A) KISSINGER'S TALKS IN JERUSALEM; (B) CLARIFICATIONS GIVEN TO GOI TO ENABLE POSITIVE DECISION ON GENEVA; AND (C) KISSINGER'S DEPARTURE STATEMENT AT LOD. HAARETZ (-4&-)85 -,\$ &9)-,) SAY TALKS ON TROOP DISENGAGEMENT WILL RESUME IN GENEVA ON JANUARY 7. HAARETZ (MARCUS FROM GENEVA) SAYS WHILE ISRAELIS AND ARABS WILL PROJECT STIFF POSITIONS AT OPENING SESSIONS, MAIN PEACE TALKS WILL TAKE PLACE IN SUB-COMMITTEES TO BE FORMED IMMEDIATELY AFTER OPENING. DAVAR (BLOCH) SAYS GOI HAS RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY NOT TO TALK TO REPRESENTATIVE OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS. PRESS HIGHLIGHTS DEFMIN DAYAN'S STATEMENT THAT: (A) IT IS IMPORTANT THAT US IS PERSUADED THAT ISRAEL IS DOING UTMOST FOR PEACE; AND (B) IDF MAY HAVE TO SIT IN WEST BANK OF CANAL UNTIL DESIRED AGREEMENT (TROOP DISENGAGEMENT) IS ATTAINED. REPORTERS DRAW ATTENTION TO RECENT INTENSIFICATION OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES ON LEBANESE BORDER.

2. TERRORIST ATTACK: (A) AL HAMISHMAR (MAPAM) WRITES: "THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE TERRORISTS IS TO SABOTAGE THE PEACE CONFERENCE... WE WILL NOT BE SURPRISED IF ITS TURNS OUT THAT QADHAFI'S HAND IS BEHIND THE TERRORIST ACT... OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THE MANNER IN WHICH THE TERRORISTS MURDERED... IS MEANT TO PROVE THAT THE PALESTINIANS WILL NOT ACCEPT DICTATED SOLUTION.."
(B) COMMENTATORS GENERALLY POINT OUT IRONY THAT JUST WHEN WORLD BEGAN TO PLEAD FOR INCLUSION OF PALESTINIANS IN PEACE TALKS, TERRORISTS SET OUT TO PROVE THEY CANNOT BECOME TRUSTED PARTNERS FOR PEACE. JERUSALEM POST EDITORIAL REMARKS: "SHOULD DR. KISSINGER REALLY EXPECT US TO GO TO GENEVA WITH... FAITH IN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS WITH ARAB ORGANIZATIONS?"

3. KISSINGER'S TALKS: (A) HAARETZ (GOLAND AND MARGALIT) WRITE: "... FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING WAS REACHED WITH DR KISSINGER... (A) TALKS ON TROOP DISENGAGEMENT TO RESUME ON JANUARY 7... (B) GENEVA'S OPENING SESSION NEXT FRIDAY WILL BE CHAIRED BY UNSYG WALDHEIM...(C) REGARDING AUSPICES, NOTHING EXPLICIT WILL BE STATED; HOWEVER, THE UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THE UN WILL BE A SPONSOR... (D) ISRAEL GAVE UP ITS DEMAND THAT THE INVITATION TO GENEVA SPECIFY THAT NO ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS BE INVITED WITHOUT PARTIES' AGREEMENT... I.E. ISRAEL UNCLASSIFIED

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GAVE UP ITS VETO RIGHT TO PROTEST INCLUSION OF PALESTINIANS ON BEHALF OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS...(E) ISRAEL WILL NOT SIT WITH SYRIA UNLESS IT PROVIDES LIST OF POWS..."
(B) HAARETZ (MARCUS FROM GENEVA) WRITES: "REGARDING THE SYRIAN POWS... ONE VERSION SAYS THAT A LIST HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO ISRAEL WITH SYRIA'S CONDITION THAT THE MATTER IS NOT TO BE MADE PUBLIC... ANOTHER VERSION SAYS THE LIST WILL BE SUBMITTED ON THE EVE OF THE OPENING.. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE CLAIM..

THE SYRIAN POSITION WAS VERY STIFF... AND DR. KISSINGER FOUND
A COMPLICATED FORMULA TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.."
(C) MAARIV (ZAK) COMMENTS: "THE US POSITION ON
TROOP DISENGAGEMENT IS AMBIVALENT.... ON THE ONE HAND THE
US IS INTERETED IN PROMOTING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND
EGYPT... ON THE OTHER HAND ISRAEL'S PRESENCE WEST OF THE CANAL
LEAVES WITH THE US AN IMPORTANT BARGAINING CARD WITH THE SOVIET
UNION ON A TOTAL PEACE SETTLEMENT... MUCH AS THE US IS DIRECTING
ISRAEL TO MAKE A TACTICAL WITHDRAWAL... IT IS INTERESTED THAT
THE STRATEGIC WITHDRAWAL, BENEFICIAL TO THE SOVIET UNION, WILL
OBLIGATE THE SOVIET UNION TO GIVE (SOMETHING) IN RETURN..
THEREFORE THE AMERICANS CONVINCED ISRAEL THAT IT IS BETTER
IF IT MAKES CONCESSIONS 'UNDER US PRESSURE'..."

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SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0940

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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(D) DAVAR (HISTADRUT) (BLOCH) WRITES: " THE GOI HAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO PARTICIPATE AT GENEVA FOLLOWING THE ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATIONS WHICH SECRETARY KISSINGER GAVE TO MRS. MEIR... ALL THE MINISTERS PRESENT AT TALKS WITH DR. KISSINGER RECOMMENDED THAT ISRAEL GO TO GENEVA...THE GOVERNMENT ALSO RESOLVED NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN A DEBATE WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION...KISSINGER'S IMPRESSION IS THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ATTAIN A QUICK AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT ON TROOP DISENGAGEMENT...AND HE HOPES THIS WILL BE A SUCCESSFUL START TOWARD ATTAINING FURTHER AGREEMENTS..."

(E) COMMENTING ON WHAT PERSUADED ISRAEL TO AGREE TO GO TO GENEVA, HAARETZ EDITORIAL COMMENTS: " ...IT IS POSSIBLE TO PRESUME THAT THE GOVERNMENT FOUND NO WAY TO WITHDRAW ITS

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PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT' IN PRINCIPLE' TO GO TO GENEVA... REGARDING THE QUESTION OF WHAT INFLUENCED THE POSITIVE DECISION... THE UNKNOWN ELEMENTS STILL OUTWEIGHT THE KNOWN... ON HINT IS... KISSINGER'S PROMISE TO MAINTAIN CLOSER CONTACT WITH ISRAEL IN THE COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS... THIS PROMISE IS VERY IMPORTANT AND WE DO NOT DOUBT THAT IT WILL BE KEPT..."

(F) JERUSALEM POST (INDEPENDENT) (LANDAU) WRITES: "...WHILE DR. KISSINGER HAS BEEN ABLE TO SET ASIDE ISRAEL'S RESERVATIONS (ON IMMEDIATE OBSTACLES TO GENEVA)... HE LEFT THE NATION'S LEADERS MORE AWARE THAN EVER THAT, WHEN THE CONFERENCE REACHES SOME OF THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, ISRAEL WILL FIND ITSELF ALONE. ISRAEL, SOURCES INDICATED THAT A WRITTEN MEMORANDUM OF THE UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED WITH DR. KISSINGER HAS BEEN DRAFTED..."

(G) DAVAR EDITORIAL REMARKS: " UPON KISSINGER'S DEPARTURE... IT SEEMS THAT THE WAY HAS BEEN PAVED FOR ISRAEL'S ATTENDANCE AT GENEVA...HOWEVER, THE CRIME IN ROME, COUPLED WITH A TRAIL OF OTHER GLOOMY SIGNS, LEAVE NO ROOM FOR OVER OPTIMISM ON THE CHANCES FOR A PEACE SETTLEMENT."

4. DAYAN'S SPEECH: ADDRESSING LABOR PARTY EX-RAFI'S LEADERSHIP (DEC 17), DEFMIN DAYAN, WHILE DECLARING HE FAVORS GOING TO GENEVA, WARNED THAT ISRAEL MIGHT HAVE TO STRUGGLE THERE. DAYAN EXPRESSED HIS BELIEF THAT THE US WOULD HELP ISRAEL CARRY THE BURDEN OF SECURITY, ADDING, " IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE US IS PERSUADED THAT ISRAEL IS DOING EVERYTHING FEASIBLE FOR PEACE." DAYAN ALSO EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT US WILL NOT ABANDON ISRAEL IF IT THINKS THAT ARABS ARE SEEKING TO THREATEN ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE. DEFMIN DAYAN URGED A REALISTIC APPRAISAL OF SITUATION, SAYING THAT ISRAEL MAY HAVE TO " SIT FOR SOME TIME YET". ON WEST SIDE OF CANAL UNTIL THE DESIRED AGREEMENT IS ATTAINED.

4. BUNKER'S APPOINTMENT: IN A PROFILE OF ELSWORTH BUNKER, DAVAR (SHMUELI) LAUDS HIS CREDIBILITY AND PROFESSIONAL

EXPERIENCE. SHMUELI REMARKS: "... (HIS) APPOINTMENT PROVES
THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH PRESIDENT NIXON AND HIS SECRETARY
OF STATE ARE VIEWING THE TASK OF THE HEAD OF THE US DELEGATION
TO GENEVA. SUCH TASK REQUIRES, ACCORDING TO THEM, RICH
DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE, TALENT TO HANDLE DELICATE AND
COMPLICATED MATTERS... PLEASANTNESS COUPLED WITH AN ABILITY
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